Western Washington Amateur Relay Association

The Coordinator

Ed Bruette - N7NVP, Bob Lewis - KC7TGA and Nancy McKibbin - KB7BJE go over the WWARA Financial Records.

Financial Review Completed

What's In This Issue

Financial Review
Ham Convicted of fraud
Amateur Growth Stalled
FCC Enforcement actions
Boarder Disputes
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New Conducted emission limits
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And more . . .

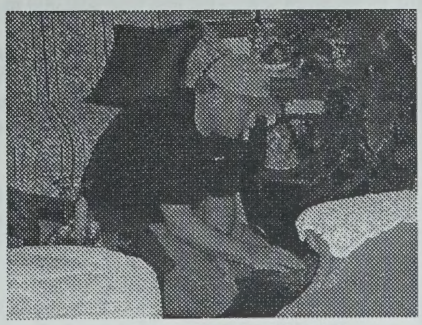
The financial review committee met October 23, 1999 at 9:00 am at N7NVP's QTH in Silverdale to go over the WWARA's financial records for the years 1996 through1998. The committee consisted of Committee Chairman Ed Bruette N7NVP, Member at Large Bob Lewis – KC7TGA, WWARA Secretary Mark McClain – N6OBY, past WWARA Secretary Nancy McKibbin – KB7BJE and past WWARA Chairman Mark McKibbin – WR7V.

Ed Bruette and his wife Connie N7NVQ turned their living room into a full conference room with all the accruements including coffee and freshly baked cinnamon rolls. Before the review could begin Mark McClain had to access the Associations financial data on his laptop using Quick Books. Marks computer is running Windows NT as an operating system and by the time Mark had everything up and running it was after 10:15 am.

Once the computer was ready the committee went through the WWARA bank records and expenses to ensure that everything was accounted for and appropriate. Special attention was paid to transactions between all officers, board members and chairmen to ensure that there were no irregularities or favoritism. Early in the afternoon Connie, made a speed run to COSTCO and brought back two huge pizzas. Of course an immediate break was deemed necessary with the actual review completed about 4 PM that afternoon.

The Review was the result of a motion made and passed by the membership a year ago at the December 1998 general membership meeting instructing the WWARA Chairman to appoint a committee yearly to review the financial and other records of the WWARA and present their report at the February board of directors meeting.

(Continued on Page 2)



Mark McClain - N6OBY
WWARA Secretary working on his notebook computer.

Is the WWARA Y2K compliant?

WR7V

Maybe not according to a letter recently written by FCC Bureau Chief D'wana R. Terry. In this case Y2K means more than just the well publicized computer date problem as Chief Terry responded to an inquiry from Congressman Dreier of California in reaction to objections by Southern California amateurs Boxton and Labb. Boxton and Labb queried the FCC and Congressman Dreier about recent decisions made by the Southern California Repeater and Remote Base Association (SCRUBBA). In the Chief's letter to Congressman Dreier the Commission's view of a frequency coordinator and their function is fully addressed. The full text of Chief Terry's letter can be found elsewhere in this issue of The Coordinator.

Specifically Chief Terry states that "it was essential that frequency coordinators respond to the broadest base of local amateurs and consider the concerns not only of repeater owners but also of those users of spectrum affected by repeater operation." Chief Terry defines all Technician, General, Advanced and Extra class license holders in a given area as the broadest base as each licensee is able to operate a repeater or auxiliary transmitter.

In light of Chief Terry's letter some of the questions WWARA members need to be asking are, "does the WWARA represent the broadest base of local amateurs or only those that own and operate repeaters?" "When adopting regional band plans, are these decisions based on the broadest input from the affected license classes?" "Does the WWARA Bylaws prohibit participation to selected individuals or is it open to all amateurs as defined by the Chief Terry?" "Is the WWARA's charter still appropriate for Y2K?" If the answers are yes then we can continue with confidence. If any answer is no, then we need to consider how we can adapt to make the WWARA Y2K compliant.

HAM CONVICTED OF FRAUD IN BOGUS EQUIPMENT OFFERINGS CASE

A Florida ham has been ordered to spend most of the next five years in prison after pleading no contest to fraud charges involving offers to sell amateur and vintage gear. Michael T. Kirby, W5JBV (ex-K4VFY), of Panama City, Florida, had been arrested August 20 for scheming to defraud using the US mails. Kirby has a history of arrests and convictions for allegedly accepting payments for equipment he never delivered.

Panama City Police Detective Robert Luther said that Kirby pled no contest September 30 in Bay County Florida 14th Judicial Court, "which means he puts himself on the mercy of the court," Luther explained. Kirby will get 41 days credit for time served in the Bay County Jail following his arrest.

Luther said Kirby's fraudulent dealings were extensive. He said that while Kirby actually received somewhat less than $20,000 in proceeds from his fraudulent dealings, "the attempted fraud is well greater than that."

The court required Kirby to make restitution "to as many victims as I can identify," Luther said. Some victims already have received refunds. Luther said those defrauded by Kirby who have not already received a refund or been in contact with authorities should send him "original proof" that fraud occurred. He said this means original documentation, letters, correspondence and similar material as well as the amount of money and the dates involved.

Those believing they were victimized by Kirby can e-mail Luther for more information at panamaone@aol.com or call him at 850-872-3129.

Ham Radio growth stalls

Some bad news for the future. The service has stopped growing and could easily slip into a decline. So say the latest Amateur Radio census statistics published in the latest issue of Fred Maia's W5YI Report. According to Maia, growth in the number of United States ham radio licensee's has nearly halted overall over the past year.

"The Technician is continuing to grow, but is not growing anywhere near as it was in the past. The Extra Class is also growing a little bit. But for the most part, any of the classes that require Morse Code is decreasing in the numbers of active operators." Fred Maia

Fred tells Newsline that his numbers exclude hams whose licenses have expired but remain within the two-year grace period. And while the overall number of United States radio amateurs is up by a bit over three thousand over a year ago, it still only amounts to less than one-half of one percent in actual growth.

"Another thing that has me very concerned is the number of people who are renewing their license. It seems that a good percentage, we are not able to say what that percentage is, is that a good percentage are not renewing their license regardless of license class. It has nothing to do with the No-Code Technician because the No-Code Technician License did not start until Valentines Day 1991 and will not come up for the first renewal until 2001.

The number of renewals is down, and the number of operators in license classes that require Morse Code, with the exception of Extra, which is up a little bit is down. The Novice Class is down about 50%." Maia

Looking at the numbers by license class, only Technician showed any real increase. It was up by more than 10,500 from a year earlier. Tech Plus and Amateur Extra classes rose slightly too, but the numbers were down slightly for Advanced and General. The biggest percentage loss was among holders of the Novice class license. Their ranks were declined by more than 5,000 operators over the past twelve months.

(W5YI)

Financial Review

(Continued from Page 1)

This year's committee was not appointed until the August meeting. Ed Bruette will make a formal presentation to the Membership at the upcoming December meeting. A new review committee for 1999 records will be appointed.

NEW ENFORCEMENT AND CONSUMER INFORMATION BUREAUS OFFICIAL

It's now official! The FCC will create two new bureaus—the Enforcement Bureau and the Consumer Information Bureau—effective November 8. FCC Chairman William Kennard made the announcement during testimony October 26 before the House Telecommunications Subcommittee on the FCC's Five-Year Strategic Plan.

"Our decision to establish bureaus devoted exclusively to enforcement and consumer information signals the enormous importance of these functions in our transition from an industry regulator to a market facilitator," Kennard said. "This reorganization is the first step in a larger effort to streamline and modernize the FCC."

As expected, FCC Deputy General Counsel David H. Solomon was named to head the Enforcement Bureau. The new bureau will consolidate enforcement functions—including amateur—and personnel from the Commission's existing Common Carrier, Mass Media, Wireless Telecommunications and Compliance and Information Bureaus. Solomon has been Deputy General Counsel since 1994.

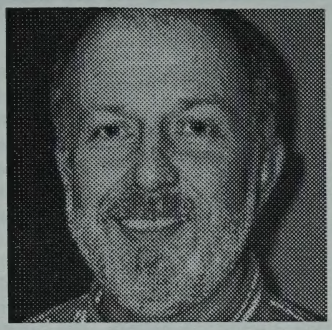
Current FCC Legal Adviser for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, says he hopes the reorganization eventually will permit him to increase the amount of time he's able to devote to Amateur Radio enforcement. Hollingsworth will get a new title as part of the reorganization: Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement.

In a surprise move, Kennard announced his intention to name Lorraine C. Miller to be Bureau Chief of the new Consumer Information Bureau. Miller now directs the Office of Congressional Relations at the Federal Trade Commission. Current Compliance and Information Bureau Chief Richard Lee had been expected to become the new CIB chief. Instead, Lee has been appointed Senior Director of Licensing Analysis in the Chairman's office. In that role, he'll advise the FCC on consolidating licensing functions across the agency.

The new CIB will consolidate the FCC's Gettysburg Call Center (to be renamed the Consumer Center) as well as staff from various bureaus who handle consumer complaints and public information requests.

(Continued on page 6)

CLAY'S CORNER



Clay Freinwald K7CR

Boy! Since we last met between these pages a whole lot has transpired.

In the latter part of October I was in Madison Wisconsin attending the Boardof Directors meeting for the Society of Broadcast Engineers. I've been involved with SBE since 1968 (Longer than WWARA believe it or not) and when my name was placed in nomination for the Board I said (thinking that I'd never get elected)...sure!...well...it happened. While at the meeting I had a chance to chat with Nels Harvey, WA9JOB, who is the newest member of the NFCB as well as Chris Imlay, W3KD, who in addition to being the General Counsel for the ARRL is on the Board filing a similar role for SBE. The topic was Frequency Coordinators and the FCC....needless to say a very interesting, and hopefully productive time. On the way back to Chicago to catch the flight back to the Northwest I chatted with another NFCB member, Dick Isley while in Elgin, Ill. Never thought that my election to the SBE Board would have put me in so close of touch with 3 of the 5 NFCB members.

I will have a more detailed report on these meetings and the NFCC at the next WWARA meeting, assuming the Chair gives me time....ha ha.

Thinks are hopping at the FCC with a number of items causing raised eyebrows...First its the Commish creating two new bureaus...the Consumer Information Bureau and, most importantly, the Enforcement Bureau. Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, whose name has become linked to Amateur rule enforcement in recent times will have a role in the new bureau. His new title is Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement. Typical WDC thing is to put all the first letters of a title or department together to make a word...in this case it spells SCARE. I have to wonder if they started with SCARE and worked the other way. Certainly Riley and Co. have put the scare in a lot of folks as he has worked to put the FCC back in the rule enforcement business.

Down in Southern California where the local coordinator, SCRBBA, announced that its moving the UHF band from 25 to 20 khz channel spacing things are not all rosey. Apparently this decision has not set well with some folks to the point that some local amateurs have taken the matter to their congressman. The next step was for the congressman to go to the FCC to find out whats going on. This resulted in a multiple page response from the chief of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division of the Commission concerning Amateur Coordinators. This response has been quickly circulated to coordinators nationwide who, with good reason, are giving this issue some very serious thought. One aspect that is getting a lot of attention is the comment that coordinators should represent not just repeater owners but the entire community of Amateur Radio Operators. The treat now is that another group will be formed in not only SoCal but other areas where coordinators have made decisions that don't set well with everyone that will challenge the existing coordinator. I have been concerned about this type of activity here in Western Washington for some time. In other areas of the country, Texas, Indiana and Oregon etc., groups of disgruntled are openly challenging existing coordinators. These folks are trying to get the NFCC and the FCCto side with them in their disputes. The NFCB is now attempting to schedule a meeting with the FCC to see where some common ground might be found in dealing with these and other matters. An interesting time indeed.

While I am on the subject....In your mind how is the WWARA doing? The next WWARA meeting is your annual chance to voice your opinion as the organization puts 4 of its 7 officers up for a vote. We will elect a new Chairman, Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer and 2 new Board Members at the next meeting. If you think that the WWARA should be doing something different, or you would like to see changes or improvements...here's your chance to really have a lot of influence. I sincerely hope that you will come and participate in this democratic process. See ya there!!

de, K7CR

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554
October 20, 1999

In Reply Refer To: 2000F/WTC

The Honorable David Dreier
U.S. House of Representatives

Attn: Chris Freehand

Dear Congressman Dreier:

Thank you for your letters dated August 10, 1999, and September 1, 1999, on behalf of your constituents, Messrs. Dale Buxton and Larry Labb. These letters follow up my letter of June 29, 1999, to you. Messrs. Burton and Labb again reiterate their objection to certain decisions recently made by the Southern California Repeater and Remote Base Association (SCRRBA), an amateur service frequency coordinator in southern California. In their August 6, 1999, letter to you Messrs. Burton and Labb, specifically object to the SCRRBA's technical standards for coordinating an amateur station operating as a repeater station, its decision to coordinate a station on a channel five kilohertz away from another repeater station, and they object to other actions taken by the SCRRBA. In their August 31, 1999, letter to you Messrs. Burton and Labb include a series of detailed questions about repeater coordination in the amateur service, ask whether certain actions of the SCRRBA are permitted, and ask for confirmation of answers previously received to these questions. Your letter has been referred to this office because the Amateur Radio Service is administered by the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

By way of background, we note that the Commission's Rules and policies applicable to frequency coordination in the amateur service were established in a 1986 rulemaking proceeding. See Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's Rules Concerning Frequency Coordination of Repeaters in the Amateur Radio Service, PR Docket No. 85-22, Report and Order (copy enclosed), summary at 51 Fed. Reg. 17324 (1986) and Memorandum Opinion and Order, 2 FCC Red 243 (1987). In this Report and Order, the Commission decided to continue relying on voluntary coordination of amateur service repeater stations because mandatory coordination of repeaters was too drastic a remedy without first determining whether the rules adopted in this Report and Order would address repeater-to-repeater interference. See Report and Order, 15. The Commission also stated that because amateur service frequency coordinators derive their authority from the voluntary participation of the entire amateur service community, their recognition must be derived from the same source. Thus, the Commission stated that it was essential that frequency coordinators respond to the broadest base of local amateurs and consider the concerns not only of repeater owners but also of those users of spectrum affected by repeater operation. See Report and Order, 25. Accordingly, the Commission did not establish a mechanism to officially recognize local or regional coordinators.

The amateur service rules provide, therefore, that a local or regional frequency coordinator is responsible to amateur radio operators whose stations are eligible to be auxiliary or repeater stations. See 47 C.F.R. 97.3(a). These operators include all individuals who hold a Technician, Technician Plus, General, Advanced or Amateur Extra Class operator license. See 47 C.F.R. 97.205(a). This group of licensees is the "broadest base of local amateur operators" possible because it includes all licensees whose stations are eligible to be auxiliary or repeater stations. As stated in my letter dated June 29, 1999, because frequency coordination in the amateur service is voluntary, in this context we do not regulate frequency coordinators or officially recognize any entity that chooses to serve as a frequency coordinator. See Report and Order, 24-25. For this same reason, there also is no specific Commission rule requiring the licensee or control operator of an amateur service repeater station to obtain the approval of a frequency coordinator before it may start transmitting messages. See Memorandum Opinion and Order, 2 FCC Red 244; 47 C.F.R. 97.205(a). Consequently, the frequency coordinator is responsible to the local or regional amateur service community rather than the FCC.

While the FCC does not regulate these coordinators, per se, because the needs of repeater users vary widely between communities, it recognizes the value of coordination. See 47 C.F.R. 97.205(c). An entity that considers the concerns only of repeater owners, however, would not be considering the concerns of other users of spectrum affected by repeater operation and, therefore, would appear at odds with the definition of a frequency coordinator in the amateur service. We envision that an entity not considering the concerns of other users of spectrum affected by repeater operation can be replaced by a broad base of local amateurs choosing another frequency coordination entity and recognizing that entitiy's decisions. In this regard, we note that Messrs. Burton and Labb state in their letter dated August 31, 1999, that they are forming a new coordinating entity in southern California, Southern California Frequency Management, which they also state will represent the entire amateur service community. Changing coordinators is the mechanism that the Commission anticipated amateur radio operators in a local or regional area would use to replace a frequency coordinator that was not representative of all local amateur radio operators or otherwise meeting their needs. As stated in my previous response, the function of an amateur service frequency coordinator is limited to recommending transmit/receive channels and associated operating and technical parameters for auxiliary and repeater stations in order to avoid or minimize potential interference. See 47 C.F.R. 97.3(a).

We also note that the FCC's longstanding policy of permitting amateur radio operators to collectively self-regulate coordinators of amateur service repeater stations has generally been a resounding success. We believe that this policy has allowed the local amateur radio community to determine for itself whether frequency coordination is needed on a particular amateur service band and, if so, what function(s) the local amateur radio community is willing to allow the frequency coordinator to perform. In this regard, we note that recently the Commission received notification that some amateur service licensees have recognized a new coordination entity in both Indiana and the New York City Tri-state area. These actions were taken without the involvement of the FCC and this approach keeps coordination at the local level, where people who more readily have knowledge of the facts can respond to the situations expeditiously and where the coordinator is directly answerable to the local amateur community. As stated in my earlier letter, there are no Commission rules governing the selection of a coordinator or the procedures for coordination. Because the needs and conditions in the Amateur Radio Service vary widely between locations, amateur radio operators have the flexibility to make these decisions at the local and regional level.

While the Commission receives relatively few complaints about the decisions of frequency coordinators in the amateur service, based on the experience of Division staff, it receives more complaints about coordination matters in

Southern California than any other area of the country. In part, this disparity appears to be due to the unique geographical characteristics of the area, the large concentration of population in a relatively small land area, and the fact that amateur radio operators have chosen to place their repeater stations at very high elevations thereby covering large land areas with a single station's signal. The effect of these decisions has been to limit the number of stations that may transmit on the available amateur service channels without interfering with each other. These unique characteristics may best be considered in coordination decisions made at the local level, where the coordinator answers directly to the local amateur community.

With regard to Messrs. Burton and Labb's question concerning an e-mail response from another Commission employee, I note that the Commission has never selected or approved any entity as a local or regional amateur service frequency coordinator, or reviewed the coordination decisions of a particular amateur service frequency coordinator. In cases of interference between two or more repeater stations, the frequency coordinator the Commission recognizes is the entity recognized in a local or regional area by amateur operators whose stations are eligible to be auxiliary or repeater stations. In the few geographical areas where the local or regional amateur service community has decided that recognition of multiple frequency coordinators for one of the amateur service frequency bands best meets its needs, we expect that the coordinators will cooperate with each other so that station licensees may make the most effective use of amateur service frequencies, as required by the amateur service rules. See 47 C.F.R. 97.101(b). In the event that the transmissions of a repeater station cause handful interference, as defined in Section 97.3(a) of the Commission's Rules, to another repeater station, and both repeater stations have been coordinated, the two station licensees are equally and fully responsible for resolving the interference. See 47 C.F.R. 97 205(c). The fact that multiple coordinators may be involved does not absolve the station licensees of this responsibility.

I trust that this letter is responsive to your inquiry.

Sincerely,

D'wana R. Terry

Chief, Public Safety and Private Wireless Division

Correspondence Log

08/07/1999	$66 cash for RD's from Nancy McKibbin, KB7BJE
	Ck for RD from Stephen Pruss, KB7WKK
	$16 cash for RD and Renewal from Lloyd Tuffs, N7ZNN
	$10 cash for Renewal from Al Burleson, K7HW
	TD Sheet & Fee from Mike Hill, N7NFY
	TD Sheets & Fees from Patrick Senko, WA7USJ
08/31/1999	Email correspondence from Bob Gudgel, K7IQ
09/03/1999	Email correspondence to Ron Ohnhaus, K0BQ
09/13/1999	On-line Renewal from Earl Garber, N3EG
09/15/1999	Ck for RD's from Dave Tyler, N7DRT
	Email correspondence from Mike McCoy, N7VWD
09/19/1999	Email correspondence from Pete Kruml, N7KFJ
09/20/1999	Email correspondence from Marc Miller, N6TJQ
10/04/1999	TD Sheets & Fees from Mark McClain, N6OBY
10/05/1999	Email correspondence to Al Muir, VE7BEU
10/07/1999	TD Sheets & Fees from Pete Kruml, N7KFJ
	Dues from Alan Hughs, KB7SVU
	Fee from Jon Marcinko, WR7JM
	$6 cash for RD from Leslie Kometz, KL7DTR
	$42 cash for RD's from Jon Marcinko, WR7JM (sold at flee mkt)
	Email correspondence from/to John Devereux, EI6FOB
10/11/1999	Email correspondence to Lloyd Tuffs, N7ZNN
	TD Sheet & Fee from Kevin Sulonen, N7KV
	Ck for RD from Ernest Beetz, WA7ATJ
	Dues from George Lanning, KB6LE
	Dues from Mark Hagestad,
	Dues, TD Sheets, & Fees from Loren Hole, KK7M
10/13/1999	Email correspondence from Dick Kuniholm, N7LOA
	Email correspondence from Richard Scoble, K7NK
10/17/1999	Email correspondence to Dick Kuniholm, N7LOA
	Email correspondence from/to Les Tomminger, W7UFI
	Email correspondence from Matt Taormina, N7KXU
10/19/1999	Email correspondence from Bill Harwell, KC7QHJ
10/21/1999	Email correspondence from Ron Ohnhause, K0BQ
10/24/1999	Dues from Robert Wormley, W7QA
	Advertising payment from Radio Club of Tacoma
	Dues from Richard Kuniholm, N7LOA
	TD Sheet & Fee from Todd Felix, WA7RUE
	TD Sheet & Fee from William Harwell, KC7QHJ
	Email correspondence from Will P.
10/27/1999	Email correspondence to Will P.
10/31/1999	Fees from Mark McClain, N6OBY
	TD Sheet & Fee from Ron Verschuyl, K7AAE

(RD= Repeater Directory, TD= Technical Data)

The Coordinator

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The WWARA acknowledges and thanks World Radio, ARRL, FCC Newsline, HamRadio Online and W5YI for allowing us to reprint some of their articles.

Vote December 4th

FCC Dismisses Four Applications as Exam Audit Continues

The FCC has dismissed four Amateur Radio applications resulting from an examination session in Yonkers, New York, last spring, but its investigation continues.

FCC Legal Adviser for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth wrote the four applicants two months ago seeking answers to specific questions about the May 2, 1999, session conducted by Metro 70 cm Network Amateur Radio Club Volunteer Examiners under the ARRL-VEC. All four were warned that failure to provide the requested information would lead to dismissal of their applications. On September 9, Hollingsworth wrote the same four applicants to dismiss their pending applications.

Dismissed were an Amateur Extra upgrade application from Keith Murphy, KB2YOI, of Spring Valley, New York; a Tech Plus upgrade application from Keith Jones, KC2EDT, of Brooklyn, New York; an Advanced upgrade application from Winston A. Tulloch, KC2ALN, of Paterson, New Jersey; and an application for a Technician license from Claudies Anderson of Detroit, Michigan.

The FCC says Murphy, Jones, and Tulloch failed to respond to the initial inquiry, while Anderson told the FCC that the test papers the FCC questioned him about were not the ones he'd turned in at the exam session.

All four applicants were advised September 9 that "the issues surrounding the examination session" will have to be resolved before the FCC entertains another Amateur Radio application from any of them.

Hollingsworth told the ARRL that the next step in the investigation would be to contact the Volunteer Examiners at the session.

In its initial inquiries to Murphy, Tulloch, and Anderson, the FCC questioned the appearance of blue markings next to most answers and asked which marks the applicants had placed on the answer sheets and if any marks were already on the sheet when it was handed out. The FCC similarly queried Jones about his Morse code answer sheet, asking if it was the only one he'd filled out on May 2 and if any of the answers were modified after he'd turned in the sheet; the others who took code tests were asked if they had written down any of their copy, and, if so, what they did with those notes.

Anderson also was asked if he was actually present at the test session and if he'd had access to an answer template before or during the test session. All four applicants also were asked to name the Volunteer Examiners who handed out their paperwork and to whom they gave their completed answer sheets, as well as any discussions they might have had with the examiners.

FCC Bureaus

(Continued from page 3)

Hollingsworth has agreed to be detailed from the new Enforcement Bureau to the new Consumer Information Bureau to handle the Consumer Center at Gettysburg after the new bureaus become effective November 8. The temporary duty will last four to six weeks. Hollingsworth says Amateur Radio enforcement will be his priority, and, by agreement between the two bureaus, amateur enforcement will continue at its present pace. Hollingsworth's current duties also include Land Mobile Service enforcement.

For more details on the reorganization plan, visit http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Miscellaneous/News_Releases/1999/nrmc9072.html —FCC news release

IT'S GREEN, IT'S HOT AND IT'S HERE!

The 1999 issue of the *WWARA's Pacific Northwest Repeater Directory* is here. After being delayed for a short time the long awaited directory is in the stores and the WWARA has copies available for purchase by WWARA members, stores and clubs.

If you prepaid for the 1999 Directory, you should have received your copy via mail. If you haven't received yours yet, contact the WWARA Secretary Mark McClain at 425 881-9389.

FCC TACKLES BORDER DISPUTE

FCC Legal Adviser for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth has made good on a promise to look into complaints of apparent US malicious interference to a repeater in Mexico operating on 145.460 MHz.

"We've been getting some vigorous complaints for a little while now about the repeater system KC6OKA/K6PYP," Hollingsworth said this week. US hams also approached him about it during the recent Southwestern Division Convention in Long Beach, California.

Hollingsworth said the repeater—jointly owned and operated by Angos Winke, KC6OKA, and Scott V. Swanson, K6PYP—is on 145.460/144.860 MHz. He said the KC6OKA/K6PYP repeater apparently ignores a voluntary coordination arrangement and seems to be causing a lot of interference in Mexico. In addition, he said, "there are problems on there with music being played, tapes being played, obscenity and profanity."

Earlier this month Hollingsworth wrote Winke and Swanson to inquire about alleged "broadcasting, playing music, transmitting tape recordings and the use of high power" and unmodulated carriers to deliberately interfere with the Mexican repeater system.

"Our information indicates that the use of this frequency pair for these purposes is contrary to a longstanding voluntary frequency plan in effect in your area in cooperation with Mexico," Hollingsworth told the two licensees.

He asked Winke and Swanson for detailed information on the operation of the repeater system including steps taken to ensure that no interference is caused to other amateurs in the repeater's coverage area or in Mexico. Winke and Swanson have 30 days to reply.

Hollingsworth says the issue goes beyond a local repeater coordination squabble and he wouldn't want to see anything jeopardize the solid working relationship between the US and Mexico. "We get very good cooperation on radio interference matters from Mexico," he said, adding that the FCC has a regional office of Mexican affairs in the San Diego area. "Mexico helps us a great deal with interference problems, and we're not going to tolerate any deliberate interference to Mexico."

MISSISSIPPI HAM AWAITS COURT DECISION IN RFI CASE

A Mississippi ham arrested for interfering with his neighbors' telephones is awaiting a decision on his request to throw out the complaint on the grounds that the state court has no jurisdiction in the matter. ARRL member Bennie Stewart, KJ6TY, of Meridian, was arrested and charged September 10 after a neighbor filed a complaint with the Lauderdale County Justice Court.

Stewart, a ham for 12 years, appeared in court October 26. He says his attorney, Felecia Perkins, filed a request to dismiss the complaint, brought under a Mississippi law that makes it illegal to "intentionally obstruct, injure, break or destroy, or in any manner interrupt any telegraph or telephone line or communication thereon between any two points." Stewart maintains that only the FCC has jurisdiction, and his station is operating properly.

The ARRL has provided legal defense assistance to Stewart's attorney. The case has been continued while the court mulls its decision. If convicted, Stewart faces a fine of up to $500, six months in jail, or both.

"It should have never gotten to this point in the first place," Stewart said, adding that he's tried to work with his neighbors regarding telephone interference ever since the first complaints arose three or four years ago. "I put myself on a schedule," he said, explaining that he operates on 40, 20, and 10 meters only on weekday mornings. He says he never operates on weekends, only runs 100 W, and no longer owns a linear amplifier.

"The problem is not here," he says of his station.

A retired professional photographer, the 60-year-old Stewart is confined to a wheelchair. He described his arrest—which he says took place in front of his three-year-old granddaughter—as "humiliating."

Stewart says he expects the court to rule on the case very soon.

NW ARRL Has New Address

The NW ARRL web page has a new address: http://hfradio.org/nwarrl/

Election of Officers on Agenda

Each December at the General Membership Meeting the WWARA elects new officers to fill the position of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and 2 Board of Director positions. If you know of someone or you yourself are interested in holding one of these elected positions you should attend the December meeting and express your interest. Last year (1998) only about 12 people decided the election.

The incumbents are Jon Marcinko chairman, Herman Entz vice chairman, Mark McClain secretary, and Board members Mark McKibbin and Clay Freinwald. This is your chance to participate. Let's see you there!

Washington Whispers

It seems that the so-called "modem tax" is back again. The modem tax - a per minute "access fee" that would be paid by ISPs to their local phone company for connecting their customers to the Internet. An FCC official speaking at the annual convention of the United States Telecom Association in San Francisco last month says they will again examine whether ro no Internet Service Providers should pay to connect to the local telephone network. At present, ISP's are exempt from payment of access fees.

Telephone companies have for more than ten years complained that ISPs should pay for using their networks because modem users tie up their capacity for hours at a time and argue that they should be compensated. Any access fees imposed on ISP's would likely be passed on to consumers in the form of higher monthly rates.

K7IJ User Loses VHF Privleges For 90 Days

The FCC has notified a San Francisco ham that it was modifying his license to prohibit operation above 30 MHz for 90 days. FCC Legal Adviser for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth wrote General licensee Danny A. Kenwood, WA6CNQ, on October 6, 1999, citing "numerous complaints regarding profanity, obscenity, deliberate interference with the K7IJ repeater and failure to properly identify" during the week of August 29 and on September 6, 1999.

Hollingsworth told Kenwood that the FCC would not initiate license revocation proceedings unless it has evidence of continued violations. Kenwood has 30 days to protest the modification. Otherwise, the modification will expire January 5, 2000.

On July 19, the FCC had requested that Kenwood retake his General class examination elements under the supervision of FCC personnel before August 30, 1999. The FCC has the authority to readminister any examination element previously administered by Volunteer Examiners. Hollingsworth said the FCC subsequently determined that Kenwood originally had been tested through an FCC field office and not by Volunteer Examiners, exempting him from the retesting request.

FCC REVISES CONDUCTED EMISSION LIMITS

The FCC has gone along with recommendations from the ARRL and others to hold the line on conducted emissions below 30 MHz from unlicensed consumer electronic and industrial, scientific and medical devices operating under Parts 15 and 18 of the Commission's rules. The FCC has proposed new emission guidelines that are just slightly more stringent than the current FCC standards.

"We conclude that mandatory conducted emission limits continue to be necessary to control interference to communications services," the FCC said in a Notice of Proposed Rule Making in ET Docket 98-80, released October 18. The Commission announced plans to "harmonize" its conducted emission standards with international standards developed by the International Electrotechnical Commission, International Special Committee on Radio Interference—known as CISPR.

The CISPR emission limits for consumer equipment are "approximately 5 dB more stringent below 5 MHz and 1 dB more stringent above 5 MHz" than the existing standards, the FCC said. "We believe that these standards address some of the concerns expressed by ARRL" and others in response to last year's FCC Notice of Inquiry on the issue, the Commission commented.

The Commission said it was not persuaded by a National Association of Broadcasters' suggestion to impose much tighter standards—22 dB greater than present—to protect AM broadcasting.

Interfering devices include such common household appliances as computers, TV sets, and microwave ovens. Conducted emissions result from RF voltages imposed on the ac power line, which can, in turn, act as an antenna. In general, the FCC's current conducted emissions limit is 250 uV. Equipment manufacturers had argued to relax existing limits to keep down production costs, while the ARRL and others representing spectrum users had asserted that the existing limits were not tight enough. In response to the earlier NOI, the League had commented that the proliferation of Part 15 and 18 devices over the past decade had resulted in "a marked increase in RF noise from conducted emissions generally."

The FCC said it agrees that that standards on the amount of RF energy conducted onto the ac power lines "are required to control potential interference to users of the radio spectrum below 30 MHz." It also invited comments on expanding the frequency range of the conducted emission limits from the current 450 to 30 MHz to the 9 kHz to 30 MHz spelled out in the CISPR standards. The ARRL has proposed that the FCC allocate new LF amateur bands at 136 kHz and at 160 to 190 kHz.

Comments on the NPRM are due 75 days after its publication in The Federal Register, and reply comments are due 30 days later. A copy of the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making in ET Docket 98-80 is available at http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et98-80/nprm.html.

Scarcity of Repeater Sites

Speaking of real estate, of late more and more hams are complaining that its getting hard to find a site for their repeaters. Others wake up to find a notice of eviction with no reason given. In all, it appears as if commercial radio site owners seem to be turning a deaf ear on the needs of ham radio and in this report, Newsline's David Black, KB4KCH takes a look at why this is happening.

Consolidation of broadcasting and other telecommunications properties is having an adverse impact on ham radio repeaters finding and keeping sites. More and more repeater operators are reporting receiving letters from their site landlords telling them that the days of free or reduced tower rental space are over. Others are getting notes telling them that their site has been sold and that the new owners don't want experimental or hobby radio systems at their sites. And as some hams have already found out, no amount of begging, pleasing or arguing will persuade the site owner to change its mind.

Most of the problems seem to stem from a recent spate of commercial site buy-outs by a small number of large management corporations. New owners could be hundreds or even thousands of miles away. These companies usually hire a single individual to look after all their properties in a given geographic region. Many of these site managers are business people with no background in two-way radio. Their job is to maximize profit. This means that any non-paying guests are being asked to leave. About 99% of these are ham radio repeaters.

There is also the issue of corporate liability. In the litigious society we live in, site owners want to minimize their risks. If a ham gets hurt working on a radio or falls from the tower, the site owners knows that a lawyer will soon be knocking at the door. To prevent this, many sites are now off limits to hams, even if the repeater sponsors are willing to pay the commercial rate for the site. And that number is growing as more and more radio sites change hands and the mega-corporations tell Amateur Radio that the welcome mat has been withdrawn.

Western Washington Amateur Relay Association

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October 7, 1999 Board Meeting Minutes

The October 7th, Board Meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma building. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jon Marcinko, WR7JM at 7:09pm.

Introductions were made and a sign-in sheet was circulated. In attendance were: Al Burleson- K7HW, Herman Entz- K7PAG, Pete Kruml- N7KFJ, Alan Hughes- KB7SVU, Dave Tyler- N7DRT, Ed Bruette- N7NVP, Clay Freinwald- K7CR, Leslie Kometz- KL7DTR, Nancy McKibbin- KB7BJE, Mark McKibbin- WR7V, Jon Marcinko- WR7JM, David Swartz- KC7RRH, Rob Lee- K7TGU, and Mark McClain- N6OBY.

The minutes from the August 7th, General Meeting were approved. The current financial report was read by the Treasurer, and approved. Copies were available for members to review.

ADJACENT AREAS:

- IACC: No news.
- B.C.: No news.
- ORRC: Jon Marcinko reported that he talked with Pete Policani, K7PP, and learned the ORCC now acknowledges K7PP's coordination at Ranier.

COMMITTEE REPORTS TECHNICAL- Nothing new to report at this time.

6/10 Meters- Board actions: 53.67 (Puyallup) Alan Hughes KB7SVU- Coordination approved. Other: Construction continues for 53.41 (Pack Forest) Bob Hasselberg- K7MXE; and 53.43 (Bainbridge Is.) Bob Lewis- KC7TGA.

2 Meters- No Board actions. Other; 145.15 (KO Point), Pete Policani K7PP- On hold; 146.76 (Federal Way) David Swartz KD7DPL- Authorized to test 6/19/99.

220- No Board actions. Other: 224.14 (Columbia Heights) Stephen Hart K7SH- Band Chair has received no response to several messages left regarding test period; 224.50 (E. Tiger Mt) Mark McClain N6OBY- Request to move, 60 day test period authorized; 224.44 (Cougar Mt) Pete Kruml N7KFJ- Submitted TD Sheet with system updates.

440- Board actions: 444.875 (Burley Mt) John Stein AB7F- Coordination approved; 440.775 (Seattle) Mark Sheppard N7LYE- Approved continuance for construction. Other: 441.850 (Mt Brynion) Carl Di Paolo W7EXH- Waiting for testing to begin; 444.125 (Seattle) Mark Sheppard N7LYE- Construction continuing; 444.125 (Index) Ray Ubis KJ7HS/KG7UB- No response to email requesting status; 441.850 (Redmond) Marc Miller N6TJQ- Testing as of 9/14/99; 442.625 (Baldi) Gary Kohtala W7NTF- Testing as of 9/3/99; 442.800 (Buck Mt) Mike Hill N7NFY- New coordination (move from Stevens Pass); 440.675 (Redmond) Mark McClain N6OBY- Request to change link coordination to repeater use. Misc: 442.375 (Baldi) Rob Lee K7TGU- Application for additional system withdrawn; John Stein AB7F- Application for link withdrawn; 444.475 (Bainbridge Is) Bob Lewis KC7TGA- Frequency change- waiting on Tech Data Sheet; 441.375 (Spanaway) Gary Kohtala W7NTF- Move from Gold Mt, looking for permanent site in Spanaway; 441.475 (Kirkland) Ivory Jackson N7CHN- Receiving Packet interference since recent move.

900/1.2- No Board action.

OLD BUSINESS Coverage prediction software: It was determined that the cost for this software is very expensive, and there are services that offer coverage plots via the Web for a very nominal price. We will look into the use of one of these Web-based services as the need for coverage prediction arises.

The financial review is scheduled to take place on Saturday, Oct 23rd. The review panel consists of Nancy McKibbin KB7BJE- previous Secretary/Treasurer, Mark McKibbin WR7V- previous Chairman, Mark McClain N6OBY- current Secretary/Treasurer, Ed Bruette N7NVP Board Member, and Bob Lewis KC7TGA- member at large. Bob Lewis has offered to hold the review at his residence, or arrange to use one of the meeting rooms at the Fire Station on Bainbridge Island.

NEW BUSINESS Clay reported that Owen Wormser is the new NFCC Chairman, and that the NFCC might decide to cease their efforts on the NPRM. Instead, they may decide to sit down with the FCC and discuss frequency coordination and look for direction from the FCC. This may result in an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding).

Ed Bruette reported; that Rick Palm has resigned from the ARRL, there is a new web page has info on some of the local repeaters in the area, and John Sprague, KA7JUR, has a new baby daughter.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm. The next meeting will be a General Meeting on Saturday, December 4, 1999 at 10:00am, and will be held at the Seattle Times Building in Bothell.

Minutes by Mark McClain, N6OBY

Meeting Notice

The next WWARA General Membership meeting will be December 4, 1999 at the Seattle Times Building in Bothell, Washington. This is the annual election of officers. The meeting will begin at 10:00 AM.

Directions I405 to Beardsley Blvd. East for two stop lights. Right and then left into the Times parking lot.

Computer Happenings

A woman in a non-computer-related company attempted to install a large software package, requiring multiple 5 1/2" disks to install from. She placed disk 1 in drive A:, as instructed. Slightly bewildered when the computer prompted her for disk 2, she nevertheless obliged. But when it asked her to insert disk 3, she went to an office-mate and insisted that another disk would not fit in the drive. instructed.

Swap and Shop

Forsale: Icom 781 HF Transceiver. Mint condition, includes service manual $3200. Icom RP1220 1.2 Ghz fully Synthesised repeter (the new kind) $2100. Must pick up in Port Ludlow. Mark, WR7V 360 437-0718

Foresale: WWARA members in need of 1/2" X 8' copper clad ground rods should contact Herman K7PAG or Al K7HW. $4.00 each or 10 for $30.00. These rods are threaded on the ends and may be stacked for depth.

3BO26+8424

Meeting Notice:
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The meeting will begin at 10:00 AM.

Season's Greetings

ROBERT DONNELL, N7NKJ
22820 84TH AVE W
EDMONDS, WA. 98026

Dues Exp.
Dec. 2000

Western Washington Amateur Relay Association
Po Box 65492
Port Ludlow, WA 98365

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10 & 6 Meters	Ed Bruette	N7NVP	360 698-0917
2 Meters	Al Burelson / Herman Entz	K7HW/K7PAG	253 857-5946
220 MHZ	Peter Kruml	N7KFJ	425 313-5877
440 MHZ	Rob Lee	K7TGU	
900/1200	Gene Colson	W7UVH	360 492-4313

Please feel free to contact your WWARA officials at any time for additional information about the Association. The COORDINATOR is published 6 times a year and mailed to all parties having a WWARA coordinated system as well as those whom are paid USER members. Dues are $12 per calendar year. The Coordinator is published BIMONTHLY. Address all formal correspondence and requests for coordination to: Visit the WWARA's web site at http://www.wwara.org

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